



WSDOT's Intercity Passenger Rail Program: A Status Report for the Washington Transportation Commission

On December 12, 2006, the Washington Transportation Commission will be given a status report on WSDOT's Intercity Passenger Rail Program. The presentation will provide commissioners with answers to these questions:

What is WSDOT's Intercity Passenger Rail Program?

An overview of the Washington State Legislature's directive to WSDOT

What market is WSDOT's Intercity Passenger Rail Program intended to serve?

- A listing of current and future population statistics along the Interstate 5 corridor
- The findings from AASHTO's *Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Report* (2002)
- WSDOT's ridership forecasts

How is WSDOT implementing this program?

- An overview of the strategy WSDOT is applying to meet the Legislature's directive
- A summary of past investments and program milestones
- The long-range vision for program development

How are WSDOT's intercity passenger trains performing?

A summary of performance statistics featured in the *Gray Notebook* and others

What is WSDOT building to support intercity passenger rail service?

The highlights of WSDOT's 10-year capital program funded by the Washington State Legislature and its relationship to the long-range vision

What are the risks and challenges WSDOT faces as the department continues to develop intercity passenger rail service?

- On-time performance
- Project management, project delivery, and working with the BNSF Railway
- Significant state investment and ongoing operating subsidies in a time of limited funds
- No federal funding support

What will WSDOT focus on in 2007?

- On-time performance improvement
- Project management and project delivery
 - Vancouver Rail Project
 - Point Defiance Bypass Project
 - King Street Station Track Improvements
- Strategies to increase ridership, revenues, and public awareness
- Additional service to Vancouver, BC in advance of the 2010 Winter Olympics
- Continue to work with Amtrak, other states, and federal officials to identify and secure a federal capital funding partnership for corridor improvements
- BNSF corridor modeling and the potential for additional daily service upon completion of the existing capital program